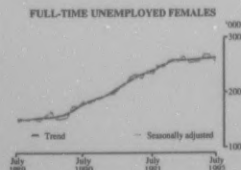
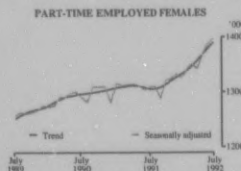
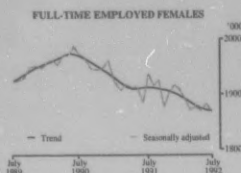


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 17 September 1992

The week in statistics ...

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Full-time employment falls again

After increasing for the first time in six months in July 1992, full-time employment (seasonally adjusted) fell again in August 1992. The number of unemployed persons also fell as did the unemployment rate and the participation rate.

Employment

The August 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,731,600, a fall of 17,600 since July 1992. Full-time employment fell by 30,300 to 5,861,600 with male and female full-time employment decreasing by 14,200 and 16,100 respectively. Part-time employment rose for the eighth month in succession, to reach 1,870,000.

The main component was an increase of 9,800 in the number of females employed part time. Trend estimates of employment have shown small increases in each of the last four months. The trend for full-time employment continues to fall, although the rate of decline has slowed in recent months.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total — '000 —		
1992					
March	5,903.1	1,787.7	7,690.8	10.5	63.0
April	5,880.0	1,792.3	7,672.3	10.4	62.7
May	5,863.7	1,799.2	7,663.0	10.6	62.7
June	5,856.8	1,834.4	7,691.1	11.1	63.2
July	5,891.9	1,857.3	7,749.2	11.0	63.5
August	5,861.6	1,870.0	7,731.6	10.9	63.2

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for August 1992 was 947,500, a fall of 12,100 since July 1992. For males, unemployment fell by 11,100 to 579,800. A decrease of 17,000 in males seeking full-time work outweighed the rise of 5,900 for males seeking part-time work. Female unemployment was relatively steady at 367,700, with a fall of 10,100 in the number of females seeking full-time work outweighing a rise of 9,100 for females seeking part-time work.

Trend estimates of unemployed persons have been increasing since November 1989. For males seeking full-time work, males seeking part-time work and females seeking part-time work, the trend of slow increase continues. For females seeking full-time work, the trend has now steadied.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August 1992 was 10.9 per cent, compared with 11.0 per cent in July 1992. For males, the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 11.5 per cent. For females, the rate was steady at 10.1 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate has increased in each of the last five months and now stands at 11.0 per cent.

Continued ...

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 63.2 per cent, a fall of 0.3 percentage points compared with July 1992. For males, the rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 74.5 per cent while for females, the rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 52.2 per cent. The trend participation rate has increased in each of the last three months, and now stands at 63.3 per cent.

For further information order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0), or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.

Private sector employment back to November 1987 level

The number of employed wage and salary earners in the private sector has fallen to a level comparable to the that of November 1987, after growing to a peak in December 1989.

In March 1987 the estimated number of employees in the private sector was 3,926,500 in seasonally adjusted terms. This estimate grew to 4,552,100 in December 1989, representing an average annual increase of 5.5 per cent over that period. Since December 1989, there has been a steady decline to 4,101,000 in March 1992 with an average annual rate of decrease of 4.5 per cent over this period.

The number of employed wage and salary earners in the public sector, in contrast, has remained fairly constant. In the five years to March 1992, the number of public sector employees decreased by 33,800 (1.9%) to 1,700,400 seasonally adjusted, an average annual decrease over this period of 0.4 per cent. The sharp, short-lived peak in public sector employment (shown on the graph opposite) reflects the employment of 42,200 temporary staff to conduct the 1991 Census of Population and Housing (August 1991).

The number of female wage and salary earners as a proportion of total wage and salary earners grew steadily from 42.3 per cent in February 1987 to 45.4 per cent in February 1992.

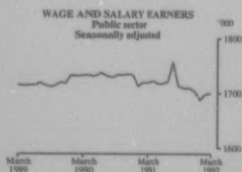
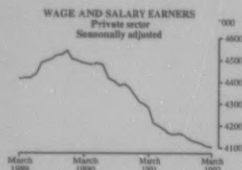
Employer unit size

In the private sector, there has been a change in the proportion of employees employed by different sized organisations in recent years. The proportion employed by organisations with less than 20 employees has risen from 32.2 per cent in November 1989 to 35.2 per cent in February 1992. In the same period the proportion employed by organisations with 100 or more employees decreased from 45.0 per cent to 42.1 per cent. The proportion employed by organisations with 20 to 99 employees has remained relatively constant over the same period.

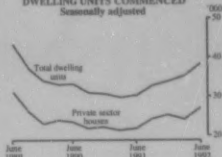
Full-time and part-time employment

Over the last five years the number of part-time employees has increased by 23.4 per cent (from 1,238,590 to 1,528,800), which is an annual growth of 4.3 per cent. In contrast, the number of full-time employees fell from 4,412,800 in February 1987, a net decrease of 145,300 or about 3.3 per cent. Full-time employment peaked in November 1989 at 4,745,600.

For further information, order the publication *Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0), or contact Errol Preston on (06) 252 6511.



DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED
Seasonally adjusted



Strong growth in housing starts

The total number of dwelling units commenced in the June quarter 1992 (38,390) rose by 9.3 per cent over the previous quarter and by 27.2 per cent over the June quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted terms.

The June quarter 1992 estimate was the highest for three years and marks the fifth consecutive quarterly increase. Private sector house commencements rose by 12.6 per cent to 27,056 in the quarter — also a three year high.

While commencements decreased in the June quarter in South Australia (1.2%) and Tasmania (17.3%), this was more than offset by growth in New South Wales (18.3%), Victoria (19.7%), Queensland (0.2%), Western Australia (20.6%) and the Australian Capital Territory (7.0%).

In original terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced in the June quarter 1992 (38,459) rose by 18.7 per cent over the March quarter figure of 32,389 with all components of commencements rising.

Total private sector commencements rose by 18.4 per cent (house commencements up 20.6%; other residential building commencements up 11.2%). Total public sector dwelling unit commencements rose by 22.9 per cent (house commencements up 2.0%; other residential building commencements up 31.8%).

Commencements in the 1991-92 year

In original terms, there were 139,875 dwelling units commenced in 1991-92 an increase of 15.3 per cent over 1990-91. Private sector and public sector commencements increased by 15.9 per cent and 8.6 per cent respectively. Total house commencements rose by 15.0 per cent and total other residential (townhouses, flats, apartments, etc.) commencements rose by 16.2 per cent.

On a State by State basis, percentage movements in the number of dwelling units commenced are shown in the table below.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS, 1991-92
Percentage change from previous year

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Houses	13.1	5.9	23.5	2.5	19.1	12.7	53.0	80.0	15.0
Other residential building	14.5	19.0	16.2	-11.9	33.1	9.9	72.1	42.2	16.2
Total dwellings	13.6	7.3	21.6	-1.0	22.3	11.9	58.8	61.6	15.3

Only South Australia failed to record a substantial increase in commencements during 1991-92. However, dwelling unit commencements in South Australia have been relatively stable over the last four years and did not experience the same decline as in most other States during 1989 and 1990.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Retail growth slows down

Monthly trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments show growth averaging 0.3 per cent over the three months ended July 1992, compared with an average growth rate of 0.7 per cent for the three months ended April 1992. The annual growth rate (July 1992 over July 1991) is now 4.8 per cent.

In seasonally adjusted terms the estimate of retail turnover rose by 0.6 per cent in July 1992. This follows a fall of 1.3 per cent in June.

The grocery industry, which is the largest industry covered by the survey, continues to show relatively strong growth averaging 0.8 per cent over the last three months. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs is the only other major industry to show growth, averaging 0.3 per cent over the same period. 'Other' food stores, clothing and fabric stores and department stores are currently declining. The performance of these industries, together with that of electrical goods stores, is strongly influencing the overall weak growth in retail turnover.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in July 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended July 1992	12 months ended July 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,385	0.8	0.6
Butchers	203	0.6	0.4
Other food stores	525	-0.9	0.6
<i>Total food group</i>	<i>3,113</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	919	0.3	-0.1
Department and general stores	780	-0.5	0.3
Clothing and fabrics stores	594	-0.1	0.4
Electrical stores	449	-0.3	0.0
Pharmacies	365	1.7	0.3
Newsagents	270	-1.1	0.1
Other industries	1,371	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	<i>7,861</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.4</i>

New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia are each showing weak growth at present. Growth in Queensland and Tasmania is slightly stronger while South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are in decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
Percentage change in trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1992								
March	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.7
April	0.6	0.7	0.8	-0.1	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6
May	0.4	0.5	0.6	-0.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.5
June	0.2	0.3	0.4	-0.5	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.3
July	-0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.7	0.0	0.4	-0.3	0.1

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 432 111

Award rates of pay in brief ...

Over the 12 months to July 1992, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 2.7 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 2.8 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively. The largest movements over the period for full-time adult males and females occurred in the wholesale and retail trade industry (5.0% and 3.8% respectively) and in the manufacturing industry (3.1% and 2.9% respectively).

For further information, order the publication *Award Rates of Pay Indexes*, Australia, July 1992 (6312.0), or contact Bernie Schmitz on (06) 252 6581

All the week's releases: 9 to 15 September

General

- Publications Advice, 11 September 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Publications Advice, 15 September 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Publications to be Released in 1993 (1109.0; free)
- Information Paper: ABS Classification of Qualification: 1992 (1263.0; free) — *new issue*
- Statistics Weekly, 10 September 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
- Brisbane City Statistical Summary, 1992 (1313.3; \$9.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports and Imports by Country, June Qtr 1992 (5422.0; \$19.00)
- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, July 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)
- Foreign Trade, Aust.: International Cargo, September Qtr 1991 (5440.0; \$15.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., August 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, August 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., July 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)
- The Labour Force, Vic., May 1992 (6202.2; \$16.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, June 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, July 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, July 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)
- Retail Trade, Aust., July 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, June Qtr 1992, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.50)
- Building Approvals, NSW, July 1992 (8731.1; \$10.50)
- Building Approvals, Tas., July 1992 (8731.6; \$10.50)

Transport

- Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Aust., 30 September 1991, Preliminary (9202.0; \$8.00)

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic
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Statistics Weekly
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Calendar of key releases

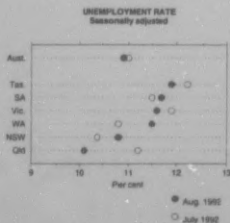
Expected releases over the fortnight to 29 September 1992

September

- 17** Export Price Index, Australia, July 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, July 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, July 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- 21** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, July 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, July 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 25** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, August 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 28** Manufacturing Production, Australia, August 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 29** Balance of Payments, Australia, August 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, July 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Australia, July 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
15 September 1992



Statistics Weekly
17 September 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (July 92) (trend estimate)	4.5	3.9	8.7	-2.8	6.9	5.1	n.a.	5.4	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations (July 92)†	1.6	14.2	-12.7	0.9	11.8	1.9	-8.1	-16.9	1.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (July 92)†	3.2	16.0	16.6	-2.4	33.2	27.1	193.3	65.7	16.3
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92)	-22.0	-15.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (Aug. 92)*	-0.4	-1.0	2.8	-0.2	0.5	-0.2	0.8	0.8	0.1
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 15 September 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	July 92	7,861	7,973	0.6	4.0
— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	1.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	July 92	47,203	43,348	-12.9	1.8
Dwelling unit approvals	"	July 92	14,536	13,849	2.5	16.3
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,893	1,858	8.2	-0.1
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	24,478	24,661	1.2	3.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Aug. 92	7,679.3	7,731.6	-0.2	0.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.6	10.9	-0.1	1.1
Participation rate †	"	"	62.6	63.2	-0.3	-0.1
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		June 92	124.6	n.a.	1.8	3.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		June 92	112.7	n.a.	0.4	1.3
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	June 92	6.40	n.a.	-0.10	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.90	n.a.	-0.20	-2.25
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	July 92	4,813	4,813	0.9	2.2
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,317	4,916	5.8	16.5
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-504	-103	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-857	-320	-190.9	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,927	-1,429	-12.7	-56.3
Terms of trade (d) 1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
SUS per \$A		July 92	0.7454	n.a.	-1.4	-3.5
Trade weighted index May 1970 = 100.0		"	54.7	n.a.	-2.7	-8.8
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	June 92	177	218	1.7	5.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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